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 ACTION SCT-00

INFO	LOG-00	ACDA-08	ACDE-00	AID-00	ARA-01	A-00	CA-02
	CC0-00	CG-00	CIAE-00	SMEC-00	COME-00	CTME-00	OASY-00
	DODE-00	DOEE-00	DOTE-00	SRPP-00	DS-00	EB-00	EUR-01
	FAAE-00	FBIE-00	UTED-00	H-01	IMMC-01	TEDE-00	INR-00
	INSE-00	IO-00	L-01	ADS-00	MMP-00	M-00	NEA-01
	NRCE-00	NSAE-00	NSCE-00	OCS-03	OIS-01	OMB-01	OPIC-01
	PA-00	PM-00	PRS-00	P-00	CIO-00	SP-00	SSO-00
	TRSE-00	T-00	USIE-00	USSS-00	SA-01	ASDS-01	PMB-00
	DSCC-00	DRL-04	G-00	/028W			

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R 211317Z OCT 97
 FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
 TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8314
 INFO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

UNCLAS BUENOS AIRES 005331

SENSITIVE

E.O. 12958: N/A
 TAGS: PTER, PGOV, AR
 SUBJECT: ARGENTINES LOOKING AT ISLAMIC JIHAD/HAMAS
 IN CONNECTION WITH BOMBINGS

SENSITIVE BUT UNCLASSIFIED - TREAT ACCORDINGLY.

1. (SBU) SPECIAL INVESTIGATOR ESTEBAN CANEVARI WAS
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 APPOINTED IN MID-AUGUST BY ARGENTINE SUPREME COURT TO

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INVESTIGATE THE 1992 TERRORIST BOMBING OF THE ISRAELI EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES AND ANY POSSIBLE LINKS BETWEEN THIS ATTACK AND THE ONE ON THE AMIA JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN 1994. IN AN OCTOBER 10 MEETING WITH THE CHARGE AND POLOFF, CANEVARI TOLD US HE HAS THE GREEN LIGHT TO INVESTIGATE ANY LEADS IN THE FIVE-YEAR-OLD EMBASSY BOMBING CASE. WE ASKED IF THERE WAS ANYTHING NEW WHICH HAD CAUSED HIS APPOINTMENT. HE SAID THERE WAS NOT, ALTHOUGH HE BELIEVED ISLAMIC JIHAD'S CLAIM OF RESPONSIBILITY STILL MERITED ATTENTION AND SHOULD BE PURSUED. THE CHARGE SAID THAT THE USG STOOD READY TO OFFER ASSISTANCE, IF POSSIBLE. CANEVARI THANKED THE CHARGE FOR THIS OFFER.

2. (U) SEVERAL DAYS AFTER THIS MEETING (OCTOBER 16), AN ARTICLE APPEARED IN THE NEWSPAPER "CLARIN" STATING THAT AN UN-NAMED ISRAELI OFFICIAL HAD IMPLICATED HAMAS LEADER JALED MISHAL AS THE PERSON WHO HAD PROVIDED THE EXPLOSIVES FOR THE ATTACK IN BUENOS AIRES. (THE ARTICLE DID NOT REMARK ON ANY POSSIBLE LINK BETWEEN THIS ALLEGATION AND THE FACT THAT MISHAL HAD JUST BEEN THE TARGET OF AN ISRAELI ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT.) THE ARTICLE WENT TO NOTE THAT THERE WAS OTHERWISE NOTHING NEW TO REPORT IN THE INVESTIGATION.

3. (SBU) ON OCTOBER 16, AN OFFICIAL WHO WORKS FOR CANEVARI INFORMED US THAT THE SUPREME COURT HAD ASKED THE FOREIGN MINISTRY TO SEND THE EMBASSY A DIPLOMATIC NOTE REQUESTING "ALL THE INFORMATION THE USG HAS ON ISLAMIC JIHAD." WE RESPONDED THAT SIMILAR INFORMATION HAD ALREADY BEEN PROVIDED TO GOA OFFICIALS. THE

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OFFICIAL SAID ANYTHING WHICH COULD BE PROVIDED FOR USE
IN A LEGAL CASE WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

4. (SBU) THIS TOPIC AND A POSSIBLE USG OFFER OF
ASSISTANCE WAS HIGHLIGHTED IN THE PRESS AND BY MEMBERS
OF THE LOCAL JEWISH COMMUNITY DURING PRESIDENT
CLINTON'S VISIT TO ARGENTINA. WE WILL PROVIDE THE TEXT
OF THE DIPLOMATIC NOTE WHEN WE RECEIVE IT. GODARD

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